

| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | 10/810,141 | CHAMBERS ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |

Tuyet Vo 2821

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to March 26, 2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-27.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 3/09/2005
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.


TUYET VO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAIL ACTION

Reasons For Allowance

1. Claims 1-27 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record fails to disclose an illumination device and method as well by comprising a first lamp having an input and an output, a second lamp having an input and an output, said second lamp input connected to said first lamp output, such that said lamps are connected in series, a current source element having a substantially constant current characteristic, said current source element connected to said second lamp output, said first lamp having a voltage drop characteristic corresponding to said current characteristic of said current source element, and a voltage breakdown element having an input and an output, said voltage breakdown element input connected to said first lamp input and said voltage breakdown element output connected to said first lamp output, said voltage breakdown element having a breakdown voltage characteristic that is greater than said first lamp voltage drop characteristic as required in claims 1, 13 and 16.
3. The remaining dependent claims are allowable for at least above reason.
4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicants' disclosure. Tokimoto et al. (US Pat. 6,734,875) discloses full color LED display system. Guthrie et al. (US Pat. 6,650,064) discloses fault tolerant LED display design. Guthrie et al. (US Pat. 6,489,728) discloses power efficiency LED driver quiescent current limiting circuit configuration. Pross et al. (US Pat. 6,239,716) discloses optical display device and method of operating an optical display device. Mills (US Pat. 5,805,717) discloses light sensitive switch with microphone.

Correspondence

Any comments considered necessarily by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

Art Unit: 2821

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuyet Vo whose telephone number is 571 272 1830. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on 571 272 1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding assigned is (571) 273-8300 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571 272 2800.

Information regarding the status of an application or status information for publicing/unpublicing applications may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at toll free 866-217-9197.



Tuyet Vo

Primary Examiner

December 11, 2005